Folder

DEF 12-1 CHICOM

...NG TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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CORRECTION ISSUED:
10/21/64 2:55 AM WJH

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI/- CORRECTED COPY
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUMJDH/AMCONGEN HONG KONG
STATE GRNC
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OCT 20 AM 7 00

I M M E D I A T E

ACTION IMMEDIATE DEPT 334 INFO HONG KONG 69 FROM TAIPEI
OCTOBER 20, 6 PM

DEPTEL 369 PRESIDENT CHIANG DID NOT ELABORATE ON WHAT HE HAD IN MIND WHEN HE REFERRED TO NEED FOR "NEW SOLUTION." BELIEVE HE AND OTHER SENIOR GRC LEADERS ARE GROPING FOR WAY OF

SUSTAINING CREDIBILITY OF MAINLAND RECOVERY POLICY IN FACE OF IMPRESSIVE CHICOM FEAT, POSSIBILITY OF WHICH THEY HAD CONSISTENTLY DISCOUNTED AS OUTSIDE TIME BRACKETS OF OUR

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ESTIMATES (SEE MINUTES OF CONVERSATION WITH SECSTATE, APRIL 16 AND OUR A-325, PAGE FOUR). IN ABSENCE SPECIFIC EVIDENCE AS TO WHAT PRESIDENT CHIANG MAY HAVE HAD IN MIND, WE ESTIMATE THAT HE PROBABLY HAS IN MIND DEVISING WAYS OF CRIPPLING OR DESTROYING CHICOM NUCLEAR PRODUCTION FACILITIES, OR REPEATING PROPOSALS FOR US SUPPORT FOR GRC MILITARY ACTION AGAINST MAINLAND, US PARTICIPATION IN ASIAN ANTICOMMUNIST ALLIANCE, OR SOME OTHER DRAMATIC ACTION PROBABLY INVOLVING RADICAL STIFFENING OF US POLICY TOWARD COMMUNIST CHINA, AIMED AT COUNTERING PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT OF CHICOM NUCLEAR EXPLOSION.

CHIANG CHING-KUO TODAY PROPOSED INFORMALLY TO GENERAL CARTER THAT US CONSIDER SENDING HIGH-LEVEL TEAM TO DISCUSS WITH GRC POLITICAL AND MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF CCNE. HE DID NOT INDICATE THAT GRC HAS AS YET ANY SPECIFIC LINE OF ACTION TO PROPOSE.

WE DOUBT THAT AMBASSADOR TSIANG WILL HAVE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL TO MAKE TO SECRETARY ON WEDNESDAY, EXCEPT FOR POSSIBLY REPEATING FONMIN'S REQUEST (EMBTEL 324) THAT US PUBLICLY DECLARE IT WOULD MEET CHICOM NUCLEAR ATTACK WITH NUCLEAR RESPONSE. HE MORE LIKELY TO BE INSTRUCTED TO PRESENT GRC VIEWS ALONG LINES EXPRESSED TO ME BY PRESIDENT AND FONMIN AND SEEK US VIEWS AS TO WHAT CAN BE DONE TO COUNTER GROWING CHICOM THREAT UNDER CONDITIONS OF PROSPECTIVE NUCLEAR CAPABILITY.

GP-1

WRIGHT

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